

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00
ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 /134 W
-----087764 142044Z /15

R 141157Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1602
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4523

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, UNSC
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SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SOVIET POSITION ON UNTAG FINANCING

REF: STATE 192354

1. DURING AUGUST 14 CALL ON MFA DIRECTOR OF UN AFFAIRS,
FAISAL AL-RIFAI ON OTHER BUSINESS, DCM MADE ORAL PRESENTA-
TION AND LEFT PIECE OF PAPER CONCERNING SOVIET RELUCTANCE

TO PARTICIPATE IN FINANCING OF UNTAG. DCM EMPHASIZED POINT THAT WHILE SOVIETS WERE UNWILLING TO OPPOSE BASIC UNTAG RESOLUTION OWING TO RISK OF ALIENATING AFRICANS, SOVIETS SEEMINGLY WISH TO AVOID UN MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES BY REFUSING TO JOIN IN FINANCING. HE SAID THAT KUWAIT AS A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF THE UN SYSTEM SHOULD UNDERSTAND BETTER THAN MANY THE IMPORTANT POINT OF PRINCIPLE AT STAKE. HE ASKED THAT, WHEN THE ISSUE OF FINANCING ARISES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THE KUWAITI REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD WORK TO ASSURE THAT COSTS OF UNTAG RE COVERED ON THE BASIS OF REGULAR BUDGETARY ASSESSMENTS. DCM ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF KUWAITIS FOUND A WAY TO MAKE THEIR AGREEMENT WITH THIS POSITION KNOWN TO THE SOVIETS BEFORE THE ISSUE IS JOINED.

2. AL-RIFAI GAVE NO UNDERTAKING OTHER THAN TO PASS ON OUR REQUEST TO THE MINISTER'S OFFICE. HOWEVER, HE REMARKED THAT SINCE KUWAIT HAD BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, GOK FOUND ITSELF CONTRIBUTING TO A VARIETY OF UN ACTIVITIES WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY ESCAPED ITS ATTENTION OR SEEMED IRRELEVANT. WITH KUWAIT NOW FACING FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS BORN OF DECLINE IN OIL SALES AND THE FALL OF THE DOLLAR, IT NOW HAS EVEN GREATER INTEREST THAN BEFORE IN ENCOURAGING OTHER UN MEMBERS TO BEAR THEIR FAIR SHARE OF UN COSTS.

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3. COMMENT: ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL, WE THINK IT LIKELY GOK WILL BE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THIS ISSUE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IT IS LESS LIKELY THAT GOK WILL CHOOSE TO RUFFLE SOVIET FEATHERS BY RAISING THE ISSUE BILATERALLY.
MAESTRONE

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